

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd April 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	27th March 1880.
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	23rd ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	26th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	23rd ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	30th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	28th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	26th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	20th ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	24th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarī"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medinī"	Midnapore	250	24th and 31st March 1880.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	26th March 1880.
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	29th ditto.
19	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	19th ditto.
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rangpore	250	25th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	28th ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	29th ditto.
23	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	2nd April 1880.
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	
25	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	260	22nd March 1880.
26	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	27th ditto.
27	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	1st April 1880.
28	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	22nd March 1880.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
29	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	25th March to 1st April 1880.
31	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	26th ditto to 1st ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	25th, 29th, to 31st March and 1st to 3rd April 1880.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	29th to 31st March 1880.
34	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	24th March to 1st April 1880.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	27th March 1880.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	1st April 1880.
38	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	25th March 1880.
39	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	26th ditto.

POLITICAL.

PRATIKAR,
March 19th, 1880.

Lord Lytton.

WE give below the substance of an editorial in the *Pratikár*, of the 19th March, headed "Lord Lytton." In what an inauspicious hour was Lord Lytton selected by the Premier to fill the office of Governor-General of India! Reference may here be made to certain portions of his public career in this country. In the first place, when hundreds of thousands of men and women were passing through the intense distress which followed the occurrence of the cyclone and the storm-wave in Backergunge, Lord Lytton made the Queen "Empress of India," and held a grand Imperial assemblage at Delhi in honor of the occasion. While before the assembled multitude of native princes and chiefs His Excellency was holding out high expectations to the people of India, and distributing honors and titles with a lavish hand, the gaunt figure of famine was actually stalking over the length and breadth of the Madras Presidency, and numbers died of starvation. Their sufferings passed unheeded until death reduced considerably the pressure of population. Lord Lytton, however, obtained great credit in England. He now enacted the Press Law which received the support of his party. The Afghan war followed next, with the expulsion of the old Amir and the deluging of his country with the blood of its inhabitants. Lord Lytton's policy has now been discredited, and he is about to retire from India. The question now is who is to become his successor? The people ask Lord Beaconsfield not again to select a poet to fill the important office of Viceroy. It behoves his Lordship before making the nomination to see whether the candidate for the office is really able to do the work pertaining to it.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 23rd, 1880.

2. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 23rd March:—

The Army Commission.

Formerly whenever any number of Englishmen met to consider in committee any subject relating to this country, the people fully expected that their deliberations would do them good; at least would not do them any harm. As a matter of fact also the European authorities often concerted measures for the benefit of this country. All this, however, has now changed, and the people are seized with a feeling of uneasiness if they come to learn that a committee of Europeans is sitting to consider any matter affecting the interests of India. We nevertheless believed that the Army Commission, even though its labors might not lead to any great benefits, would still prove to be quite an innocuous affair. But we have been disappointed. The proposals made by this body, if acted upon, will not only injure the interests of the people but those of Government also. Among other things, the Commission has suggested a reduction of the armies of the native states as advisable in the interests of economy. In fact, say the members, if these armies were reduced, Government would be able safely to lessen the number of troops at its disposal; until this is done, the vast army of the paramount power will continue to be a necessity for the purpose of holding in check the troops in the service of the native states. Now this brings to our mind a story which we read in our boyhood. There was a certain person who by his pious and long-continued austerities succeeded in pleasing the gods, and obtained this favour that whatever he might ask for he would gain. The favour was, however, granted him subject to the condition that whatever he would gain, good or evil, his neighbours would gain in double measure. The man mused long over the matter; but could not make up his mind to ask for any boon lest his neighbours should be greater gainers thereby. At last, he asked that he might be blind in one eye. His prayer was granted; while the neighbours also became perfectly blind in both eyes. He now asked that one-half of his house and other property might be destroyed, and of course obtained his

prayer; the neighbours at the same time losing all they had in this world. The man had before become blind in one eye, and was now without any neighbours; and therefore when a band of robbers attacked his house, the latter had no difficulty in killing him and taking away all his property.

The proposal of the Army Commission, if adopted, will lead to very similar results; and although, as far as the British Government is concerned, there is no fear of its being killed and robbed of its possessions like the man in the story, it is still certain that in the hour of danger no assistance from neighbours will be forthcoming. During the last thirty years the British Government has had to engage in two wars, namely, the Sepoy war and the present Afghan war. On the occasion of the sepoy revolt, it was placed in great difficulty, and the war would have really assumed formidable dimensions if the independent native princes had not come to its assistance. The Scindiah and the Nizam of Hyderabad rendered signal services to the British Government. Nor are the services performed by native princes on the present occasion less conspicuous, and yet it is precisely a reduction of their armies that the Commission has proposed. Now, although these armies are maintained at the cost of the Indian chiefs, yet it is the British Government which reaps the benefit of their services. A reduction of their number therefore would necessitate the augmentation of the British army in India at an increased cost. The native princes have furnished repeated proofs of their devotion to the paramount power, and they have neither the power nor the inclination to take up arms against it. The present numerical strength of the British army in India is large, and is due to the desire of humiliating Russia; and this being the case, no reduction of their number would be possible even if the armies of the native states were reduced.

3. The same paper contains an article on Mr. Fawcett, in which the disinterested exertions of the member for Hackney for the good of the people of India are dwelt upon at considerable length, and the latter are exhorted to contribute towards the expenses of his election.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 23rd, 1880.

In an editorial paragraph the same paper likens the occupation of Afghanistan by the British army to the case of a snake having a mole in its throat which it can neither swallow nor disgorge. The invaders can neither retire from Afghanistan, nor retain possession of it without incurring considerable loss.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 23rd March, devotes a long leader to the subject of the dissolution of Parliament, and attempts to explain the circumstances which may have induced Lord Beaconsfield, contrary to all expectations, to now appeal to the constituencies. We extract the following paragraph from the article:—

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 23rd, 1880.

The character of Sir John Strachey's financial statement produced suspicions that a dissolution of Parliament was at hand; while we clearly surmised the character of the statement itself from the nature of the profound agitations that were being made in England regarding the finances of the Indian Government. No one ever saw a frog attain by any process of swelling to the size of a bull; no one would believe it even if he saw it. We cannot tell whose pupils Vaneck and others of his profession are; but we have an impression that the present Ministry are perfectly fitted to be their teachers. The finances have been made to appear in this abnormal state of prosperity, simply because Lord Beaconsfield might thus be able to secure a majority at the next election. In arithmetic by the addition of a cipher the value of a given sum may be raised ten times what it was

before. In the accounts presented by Sir John Strachey the ciphers, we apprehend, possess a different meaning.

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 23rd, 1880.

5. The views expressed by this paper in an article on the Army Commission are similar to those noticed in a preceding paragraph.* The Editor does not

The Army Commission.

approve of the suggestion made by the Commission to reduce the armies of the native states. If this were adopted, the loyalty of the people would evidently count for nothing, while there would be interference with the dignity of the native princes. Government cannot too well bear in mind the fact that confidence begets confidence, and distrust begets distrust. It has long unjustly cherished doubts regarding the loyalty of the native chiefs, and it is time that they should be regarded as trustworthy. We should indeed like to see a reduction effected in the army charges, but do not approve of this suggestion of the Commission. On the occasion of the Imperial assemblage certain native princes were honored with military titles. Could not they be now entrusted with commands in the army? Another point is that if the Viceroy is to have the absolute command in military affairs, such as he has had during the present campaign in Afghanistan, the post of Commander-in-Chief may be abolished with advantage.

SADHARANI,
March 28th, 1880.

6. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 28th March:—The chances are

The British Government and the people of India.

but small that the habit of self-reliance, which is as yet extremely rare among the people of

Bengal, will receive a perfect development without any extrinsic aid. An extrinsic impetus is necessary, and we cannot expect to receive it in so large a measure from any other nation than the British. Hence it is that we stand in need of their assistance. If they continue to rule over us for some time longer, and we are thus enabled to appreciate the value of their administration and to regard them as our own, it is possible we may in time improve. It is indeed common to hear such notions expressed as that English aid is not necessary; that the Bengalis will be great in this world without it; and that they will learn to walk and not continue to be borne upon the shoulders of Englishmen: but all this is childish prating.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 29th, 1880.

7. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 29th March, devotes an article to the recent Afghan debate in the House of Lords.

The results of the Afghan war.

We give the concluding observations:—The

declaration of Lord Beaconsfield notwithstanding, what we have gained by this war may be thus stated. Afghanistan is no longer a consolidated State, but is now torn with dissensions; the people have ceased to be friendly, and are now our bitter enemies; the chances of a Russian invasion have increased, while it has become difficult for the British army to safely retire from the country.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

8. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká* does not consider that the arrangement which Government has resolved upon regarding the permanent location of all the public offices in Simla will result in any large

Simla as the head-quarters of the Indian Government.

savings. There will indeed be some gain on the head of travelling allowances of clerks and other assistants who have now been asked to take up permanent quarters in that place; but this will be counterbalanced by the cost of entertaining new hands when the Viceroy comes to the metropolis. Thus, while there will be additional expenditure incurred, the low paid subordinates who are left behind at Simla will suffer on account of high prices. If economy is really desired, Government should discontinue the practice of going to Simla.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 23rd, 1880.

* See paragraph 2.

9. The same paper refers to the appointment of a native gentleman as an Additional Judge, which Sir Ashley

The appointment of a native as an Additional Judge.

Eden is said to be desirous of making.

Adverting to the pay which will be allowed to the incumbent, pay lower than that which is drawn by a European in the same position, the writer remarks that this will interfere with the dignity of the office, and that this act of Sir Ashley Eden ought to be protested against by every sensible person in this country.

ANANDA BASAK
PATRIKA.
March 23rd, 1880.

10. The *Medini*, of the 24th March, refers to a case recently disposed of by the Sessions Judge of Midnapore, in which one Chandra Mohan Chakravarti and

The high-handedness of the police.

another, of Paparará village, in pergunnah Kharagpur, were charged with having respectively committed and abetted a murder. Four others also had been originally accused, but they were acquitted by the Joint-Magistrate. Chandra Mohan and Natabar Das, however, were committed by him to the Sessions. There was almost no evidence against these men, and the Judge therefore discharged both without even having called on them to make their defence. Now, in the course of this trial, the police committed certain acts of gross high-handedness for which there was not the slightest justification. The murdered person, it was supposed by the police, had formed an illegal intimacy with Chandra Mohan's daughter, a young widow. It was further alleged that she had become *enceinte*; and this fact having come to the notice of the father, he had committed the crime with which he was charged. Even admitting the supposition of the police to be correct, there was not the slightest necessity on their part of subjecting, under the orders of the Joint-Magistrate, this young woman to a medical examination, and thus offering a gross insult to her modesty. What had the state of her health at this time to do with the commission of the murder? The police ought to have endeavoured to procure direct evidence of the crime; and even if the circumstance of the pregnancy of this female were supposed to have had any connection with the subject of enquiry, the whole thing might have been ascertained by waiting until the symptoms became more pronounced in their character, instead of thus illegally and quite needlessly outraging the modesty of a Hindu female. It was also said that she was, unknown to the medical officer, detained in the hospital for three or four days even after the medical examination was over. What was the cause of this? What judgment has the Magistrate and the Judge pronounced on this part of the case? Why was this woman subjected to so much indignity and harassment, when she was neither a witness nor stood in the position of a defendant? The son of Chandra Mohan, a minor, was also kept for some three or four days under the custody of the police, far from his house as a witness for the prosecution, and was threatened into making contradictory statements. The case against all the defendants has been dismissed; but the illegal acts done by the police have not met with adequate consideration. The whole Hindu society is grossly scandalized by the proceedings.

MEDINI,
March 24th, 1880.

11. The *Purva Pratidhwani*, of the 27th March, notices the outbreak of a fearful fire in Chittagong on the 17th of the same month. The police remained

A fire in Chittagong.

silent spectators, and but for the almost heroic exertions of Messrs. Pope and Dey, respectively, the Assistant and the Joint-Magistrates of the station, to extinguish the fire, extensive loss of property might have been the result.

PURVA PRATIDHWANI,
March 27th, 1880.

12. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 28th March, thus refers to the appointment of Baboo Brajendra Kumár Seal as Additional Judge of Bankoora on a salary

The new native Additional Judge.

of Rs. 1,200 a month:—Baboo Brajendra Kumár is no doubt an able man;

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 28th, 1880.

but Baboos Gangá Charan Sarkár, Amrita Lál Chatterjee, and others, who are his seniors in the service, had preferential claims to the new appointment. The former, however, being in the 24-Pergunnahs has had opportunities of working under the eyes of Government, and thus succeeded in superseding the latter. There can be still no question as to his ability, and it may be expected that in his new office he will do better than many a European Judge.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 28th, 1880.

13. The same paper remarks in reference to a system of examinations recently introduced by the Inspector-General of Police for selecting candidates

Appointments in the police.

desirous of entering this branch of the public service, that although well adapted for the purpose of finding out good men, still it subjects the passed candidates to unnecessary hardship. They have first to pass a preliminary examination at the office of the District Superintendents and a final one at that of the Inspector-General at Calcutta. But under the present arrangement, under which the District Superintendents possess the power of appointing Sub-Inspectors, there are few appointments which that officer can confer on such men. It is therefore necessary, and more especially as the Inspector-General keeps in his office a register of such head constables in every district as deserve promotion, that the power possessed by the District Superintendents in this connection should be withdrawn from them and exercised directly by the Inspector-General. If this were done, he would have it in his power to confer appointments upon the passed men, and equally upon those who were already in the service and might deserve promotion. This would further enable him to exercise an efficient control over officers in those districts in which the work was not satisfactorily done by withholding promotion from them and appointing new men therein. As it is, while in some districts promotion is being indiscriminately given by the Superintendents, in others there is a block in it.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 29th, 1880.

Agricultural improvements in
estates under the management of the
Court of Wards.

14. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 29th March, contains a long article headed the "Estates under the management of the Court of Wards." After dwelling on the advantages which have accrued from the institution of the Court of Wards, the writer refers to two notions which are generally entertained by the people concerning it. These are (1) that the management is expensive, and (2) that the minors do not receive a good education; nay, they acquire bad habits. Now, there is some truth in the first of these views; while the second notion is perfectly true. The management of the estates of minors by the Court no doubt proves costly, but by judicious supervision a cheaper administration may be rendered possible. The cost of management would, however, be still higher than what it is in estates administered by their own proprietors, for the simple reason that the officers under the Court of Wards are allowed higher pay than what is usually given to amlah by zemindars. But if the Government management is costly, it has at least this advantage that the officers are mostly honest and do their work conscientiously—a statement which cannot generally be made respecting the amlah of the zemindars.

That the education of the minors is unsatisfactory—nay, that it often times proves positively injurious in its effects—admits of no doubt. With the exception of Rajah Pramathanath and one or two others the pupils turned out by the Wards' Institution have been, from an educational point of view, signal failures.

In Bengal it was Sir George Campbell who first laid down the principle that in the management of the estates of minors, instead of accumulating funds year after year, with the only object of leaving a minor when he attained his majority in possession of large sums of money, the managers should,

whenever a surplus was available, construct works of public utility in such estates and seek to improve the condition of the tenantry. Under Sir George the principle was reduced to practice in Durbhunga. The Government of the North-Western Provinces also is evidently of this opinion, as it has recently taken steps for the improvement of agriculture in wards' estates. Sir Ashley Eden, however, is opposed to the making of agricultural experiments at the expense of the minors under the Court of Wards, and believes that Government, which but stands in the position of trustee in reference to their estates, is not justified in incurring such expenditure. Now this view is altogether fallacious. To incur such expenditure as may lead to the improvement of a minor's property is manifestly a far better method of employing his money than to keep it hoarded up in order that on attaining his majority he might take possession of it, and afterwards, as too often happens, squander it. The improvement of his estate, on the other hand, by the construction of useful public works and the introduction of a reformed system of agriculture, proves not only beneficial to the tenantry thereof, but to the country generally, and him in particular. Government stands in the position of a father to a minor whose property it has undertaken to administer, and would be wanting in its duty if it did not consult his present as well as future interests. Sir Ashley Eden is therefore wrong in holding the view referred to above. Occupying during the minority of a ward the position of a landlord with reference to his estates, it is bound, as was contemplated by Lord Cornwallis when he made the permanent settlement in Bengal, to adopt measures for the improvement of the condition of the tenantry. The zemindars have notoriously failed in their duty in this respect, and Government should therefore set them an example. While advocating the introduction of agricultural reforms in wards' estates, the writer does not approve of the making of costly, though profitless, experiments therein at the expense of the minors.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
March 29th, 1880.

The trade in opium.

15. The same paper in another editorial gives a short history of the opium trade carried on with China, and discusses the question of morality involved in it. The Editor is of opinion that although originally the action of the British Government in making war upon China for the purpose of continuing the trade with that country was certainly wrong and unjustifiable, still, considering that it is not Government which has made the Chinese opium-eaters, it simply being the purveyor of this drug, and that the former will continue to use it even if the latter discontinue the trade, it is not advisable to give up the opium revenue merely on sentimental considerations.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

16. A correspondent of the same paper writes to complain of the rapacity of a zemindar in action of a young zemindar of Rajshahye who has been honoured with a title by Government towards some poor and helpless persons in possession of brahmottar lands which are situate in his estates. The former is seeking to deprive them of these lands, and for this purpose has commenced surveying their properties with a new measuring chain and using other means. The attention of Government is directed to this matter.

SAHACHAR,
March 29th, 1880.

The Vaccination Bill.

17. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th March, approves of the introduction of the Vaccination Bill into the Bengal Legislative Council, and hopes that it will be passed into law.

SAHACHAR.

18. The same paper expresses surprise that beyond discontinuing the monthly Government grant, Mr. Croft has not yet done anything decisive regarding the Calcutta School Book Society. In the meantime its work is almost at a standstill, and the public are being put to great inconvenience. The despatch of

The Calcutta School Book Society.

books into the mofussil has almost ceased. The appointment of Mr. Brown, a book-seller, has been a great mistake, as also the ill-advised prosecution, which has been since withdrawn, of the cashier and another assistant of the Society.

SAMACHAR,
March 29th, 1880.

19. The same paper contains an article on the treatment of prisoners in the jails. Although the object of confining a criminal in a jail is to reform his

Prisoners in the jails.

character, yet it so turns out that most prisoners come out therefrom worse men than when they entered it. This result is due to the fact that while there the prisoners are allowed to congregate. They are not allowed sufficient food. An invidious distinction is made between European and Eurasian prisoners on the one side and the native prisoners on the other. The prisoners when sick do not receive good medical treatment. The Editor then proceeds to give an account of Faria's case—of the lunatic who recently died in the Presidency Jail. [This account is taken from the *Indian Daily News*.]

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 29th, 1880.

20. The *Samachar Chandrika*, of the 29th March, remarks that in

Repeal of Act I (B.C.) of 1869
apprehended. The strike among the
milkmen of Calcutta.

consequence of the recent strike among the
milkmen of Calcutta, and the circumstance
that for three days there was no meat to be

had in the town, all owing to the Southern Division Magistrate having
fined three milkmen who were convicted of injecting salt into the body of
a cow, Government is considering the necessity of repealing Act I of
1869.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 3rd April 1880.